



**FOREIGN, COMPARATIVE,
& INTERNATIONAL LAW
SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION**



FOREIGN, COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW (FCIL-SIS) ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

BY CAITLIN HUNTER, CHAIR
DATE: SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

LEADERSHIP

The members of the FCIL-SIS Executive Committee for 2023-2024 were: Marcelo Rodríguez (Immediate Past Chair), Mike McArthur (Chair), Caitlin Hunter (Vice Chair/Chair-Elect), and Meredith Capps, (Secretary/Treasurer).

The FCIL-SIS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee met with the Appointments Committee and Schaffer Grant Committee to discuss DEI goals and brainstorm ideas for furthering DEI initiatives. The committees recommended that all solicitations, blog posts, forms, and surveys by the Appointments Committee and Nominations Committee include clear DEI statements emphasizing that FCIL-SIS encourages applicants of a diverse background. The committees also suggested that volunteer forms and committee/interest group pages include information on time commitments and responsibilities, to accommodate and encourage participation by neurodivergent members and new members. Finally, the committee suggested various edits to the volunteer survey and the Schaffer Grant website and forms.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The FCIL-SIS membership continued to produce a variety of high-quality educational programming.

The Roman Law Interest Group and its chair, Paul Moorman, presented Professor Clifford Ando speaking about his research project, “Roman Statutes: Renewing Roman Law”, which aims to produce the first comprehensive, accurate, and freely available repository of all surviving inscribed legislation from classical Rome.

The FCIL-SIS Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee continued its “What in the World” series with a webinar on “What in the World is Happening...In the Russian War against Ukraine,” featuring Professor Iryna Zaverhuka and moderated by Paul Moorman, and a webinar on “What in The World...Is Happening in Niger,” a webinar on the 2023 coup in Niger featuring Professor Aluko Opeyemi Idowu and Professor Macharia Stanley Munene. The DEI Committee also presented the webinar “Dealing with Trauma from World Events,” featuring Professor Diana Hortsch and moderated by DEI Committee Chair Sue Silverman.

The FCIL-SIS Continuing Education Committee produced a webinar series on FCIL librarian careers and job responsibilities, based on topics suggested by Lyonette Louis-Jacques. The series kicked off with a



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webinar on “Evidence-Based Instruction for Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Research,” featuring panelists Alyson Drake and Janet Kearney and moderated by Britt Hunter. This was followed by a webinar on “Careers in Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Librarianship.” Experienced FCIL librarians discussed their professional backgrounds and what led them to become librarians specializing in foreign and international legal research. Juan-Andrés Fuentes moderated the discussion using questions developed by Sophia Kingsley. Panelists were Bianca Anderson, Director of Research and Information Services, Shutts & Bowen LLP; Heather Casey, Writer-Editor, Global Legal Research Directorate, Law Library of Congress; Yemisi Dina, Chief Law Librarian, York University; Abby Dos Santos, Manager of Library Services, Caplin & Drysdale; and Erin Gow, Satellite Librarian, United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. The series concluded with the webinar “Collection Development in Foreign, Comparative, and International Law.” The panel was moderated by Louis Myers and featured panelists Alex Burdett, Laura Cadra, Sherry Chen, and Gabriela Femenia.

ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAMS

FCIL-SIS members submitted over ten programs to the Annual Meeting Program Committee, three of which were selected.

Jean Wenger coordinated a pre-conference workshop, titled “Discover Foreign & International Law in the Second City.” FCIL-SIS member Dean Deane served as a panelist and FCIL-SIS member Mandy Lee moderated. The workshop also featured speakers Aaron Gillett, Partner, Seyfarth Shaw LLP; Pádraig Manning, Vice Consul, Consulate General of Ireland, Chicago; Hanna Maria Tetz, Vice Consul, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany; Adam Weber, Associate Dean of International Programs, Assistant Professor of Law, Chicago-Kent College of Law; and Diane Wood, Senior Lecturer in Law, University of Chicago School of Law.

Loren Turner coordinated “FCIL Cool Tools,” an FCIL-specific version of the popular “Cool Tools” program. The program featured presentations by a variety of FCIL members, including Loren, Meredith Capps, Charlotte Daugherty, Clement Lin, Sarah E.M Martin, Chelsey McKimmy, Louis Myers, II, Devan Orr, Alison A. Shea, Rachel Waldron, Latia Ward, and Julie Wooldridge.

Sarah E.M Martin coordinated and spoke at the program “Obscenity, Authoritarianism, and Blasphemy: The Global Context of Book Banning.” The program featured Emily Knox, a Professor at the School of Information Sciences, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and a well-respected anti-censorship advocate and author. Knox’s Ph.D. advisee, Andrew Zalot, also presented on his doctoral research on discourse in online and local communities where books are banned. After a planned attorney speaker was unable to attend, FCIL-SIS member Louis Myers and his colleagues at the Law Library of Congress



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stepped in at the last minute to create a full-fledged report on [Book and Media Censorship in Selected Countries](#). Louis presented the results of the report.

Finally, FCIL-SIS welcomed Schaffer Grant recipient Ugyen Thinley, who presented on his experiences founding the first law library in the Kingdom of Bhutan, at the newly created Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law.

HONORING OUR MEMBERS

FCIL-SIS presented the following awards to its members:

- The Daniel L. Wade FCIL-SIS Outstanding Service Award was presented to Loren Turner. The librarian who nominated her wrote “I would have submitted this nomination three years ago but for the fact that Loren has been serving for so long as a member of the Executive Committee and thus could not be nominated until she finally rotated off!” and “[Loren] bravely and passionately led the group through the early days of the pandemic in 2020. While so many of us were wondering what the next day would bring, Loren was working passionately to ensure the FCIL-SIS had a robust slate of virtual programming in lieu of the 2020 Annual Meeting which she had already put in a huge amount of work planning.”
- The Thomas H. Reynolds and Arturo A. Flores FCIL-SIS Publications Award was also presented to Loren Turner for her Law Library Journal article “[Passion Projects in Law Librarianship: A Belated Tribute to Igor Kavass and His Personal Mission to Acquire & Organize U.S. International Agreements.](#)”
- The Spirit of the FCIL-SIS Award was presented to Errol Adams and Sue Silverman for their work chairing the DEI Committee and creating valuable and educational webinars.
- The Spirit of the FCIL-SIS Award was also presented to Charles Bjork. The librarian who nominated him wrote “Charles has been a quiet but important member of our SIS for 10 years. He has authored a number of excellent recap posts for DipLawMatic Dialogues blog (including an outstanding 3-post series highlighting a 2023 ASIL program) – and, without people to reliably create content for the blog, the blog cannot thrive let alone survive. Charles has further served on AALL’s IFLP Committee, and also was instrumental in planning and presenting the FCIL Workshop held during the 2019 AALL Annual Meeting in Washington DC. I believe he embodies the Spirit of our SIS.”
- The Blog Post of the Year Award was presented to Juan-Andrés Fuentes for his regular blog post series “[A View from the Periphery](#)”.
- The Newsletter Article of the Year Award was presented to Susan Gaultier for her article “[Decolonizing a Human Rights Research Course: First Steps.](#)”



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- The IG/Committee Project of the Year Award was presented to the FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians – Selection Committee, consisting of Joseph Hinger, Sherry L. Leysen, Mark Engsborg, and Paul Moorman. The award honored the Committee’s work navigating the extremely challenging visa and travel situation to continue to welcome foreign law librarians and enable FCIL-SIS members to learn about law librarianship around the world.